

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Night of the Comet

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1800075.000

Medium: DVD

Director: Thom Eberhardt

Producer: Andrew Lane

Country of origin: United States

Language: English

Applicant: Palmerston North Girls High School

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 13 years.
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: Violence, horror scenes and offensive language.

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 11 April 2018

Date of direction to issue a label: 11 April 2018

Date of notice of decision: 11 April 2018

	Components	Running time
Feature(s):	Night of the Comet	95:05
Total running time:		95:05

Summary of reasons for decision:

The DVD contains a sci-fi/zombie/horror film made in 1984. The special effects are basic compared to contemporary standards, and most teenage and adult viewers would find the depictions of the zombies amusing rather than frightening. However, children are unlikely to have experience of films of this genre and are likely to be shocked and disturbed not only by the zombies but also by the sometimes bloody horror and the violence. Children have yet to reach the age where they understand that such things as zombies are not real and they are also likely to find the post-apocalyptic scenario

distressing. However, this problematic content is low in extent and degree and, after balancing the likelihood of injury with the right to freedom of expression contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, a restriction on the DVD's availability to teenagers and adults is reasonable in order to prevent injury to the public good.